



March 15, 2026

A Few Last Words Before I Go

Have Peace in a Troubled World

John 16:25-33

1. Sermon Outline:

- a. Find Peace In God's Love
 - i. What the disciples struggled to understand would be made plain by the Spirit
 - ii. In Christ, you are deeply loved by God
- b. Experience Peace Through Prayer
 - i. Jesus again invites us to pray our way through troubled times
 - ii. A good prayer life produces personal peace
- c. Enjoy Peace Because Jesus Already Overcame This World
 - i. Our peace comes through Christ's victory over the world
 - ii. You will experience trouble, sorrow, and pain - but Jesus has already won your victory

2. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. *Monday*:

- a. Read through the focal passage for this week: John 16:25-33.
 - i. What truths do you find in these verses that apply directly to your life as a disciple of Christ?
 - ii. What questions do you have after reading the passage?
- b. Now go back and read chapter 16 to see the context in which Jesus presents this passage about overcoming the world.
 - i. How do you see Jesus' speech changing following verse 25?
 - ii. How does verse 25 tie into the topic Jesus begins the chapter with (see verse 2)?
 - iii. What "hour" do you think Jesus is referring to in verses 2 & 25 (see also John 4:21)? Where do we fit in your understanding of the timeline Jesus mentions?
- c. Why had Jesus been speaking in "figures of speech" (consider verse 12 and Mark 4:33, and Matthew 13:34)?

- i. How do you see Jesus promise to tell the disciples plainly about the Father relating to John 16:12-13?
- ii. Although Jesus promised to tell His disciples plainly about the Father, how does He do that for us who live thousands of years after His ascension (consider Romans 16:25- 26, 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, Ephesians 3:8-11, and Colossians 1:25-27)?
- iii. What does this suggest about the importance of maintaining sound spiritual habits as emphasized in LRBC's Five to Thrive guidance? With this in mind, what should be a primary goal of all our Bible study (Ephesians 1:17)?

4. *Tuesday:*

- a. Today, read and meditate on John 16:26-27.
 - i. What point is Jesus making in verse 25? Was He suggesting that He would no longer represent us to the Father (compare Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25)?
 - ii. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What new reality is Jesus preparing the disciples for following His death and resurrection?
 1. For Jews who had been taught since childhood that only the High Priest could enter into God's presence once a year (Exodus 30:10, Leviticus 16: 2, and Hebrews 9:7), how revolutionary do you think they probably felt about this truth?
 2. What is significant to us today about this truth?
- b. When you read verse 27, what does it seem to say?
 - i. Is God's love conditional on any action we can take (see 1 John 4:10 & 19 and Romans 5:8-10)?
 - ii. How does the meaning change if you read Jesus' statement about God's love not as a condition but as the nature of a redeemed relationship?
 1. Read John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, 4:4-6, and Ephesians 1:4-6. What special relationship do believers have with the Father?
 2. How does knowing that we are God's children help us understand the nature of the special love of God Jesus is describing?

5. *Wednesday:*

- a. Read and meditate on John 16:28.
 - i. What is significant about this verse? What is Jesus describing in these few short words?
 - ii. What three essential aspects of the Christian faith does Jesus present in this verse?
- b. Compare verse 28 with John 8:14 and 13:3. How does this recurring theme in John's Gospel lay the foundation for all Christianity?

- i. What significance is there in His statement “I came from the Father” (see John 1:1-3 & 14, 5:36, 8:58, & 17:5 & 25, Colossians 1:15-17, and 1 John 4:14)?
- ii. What is the significance of His statement “entered the world” (consider John 3:16-17, Philippians 2:6-11, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 10:1-10, 1 John 4:9-10)?
- iii. Why is the final phrase, “I am leaving the world and going back to the Father,” essential to completing Jesus’ mission? What do these verses tell us about the importance of the “return to the Father”: Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 7:25, 1 Peter 3:22?

6. *Thursday:*

- a. Read John 16:29-30.
- b. What finally caused the disciples to believe that Jesus was who He said He was?
- c. Jesus had repeatedly predicted his imminent death, resurrection, and ascension (See John 7:33, 10:11–18, 12:23–24, 12:30–36, 13:18–38, 14:1–5, 15–31, and 16:5–7), but only now do they claim to understand and believe.
 - i. To what can we attribute this sudden insight?
 - ii. Considering Jesus’ patience in leading His disciples to understand this truth, what practical application can we make to our sharing of the Good News with others?
- d. As you read the disciple's statement, how would you paraphrase what they are telling Him? Is this claim by the disciples new (see Matthew 16:13-20)? How serious do you think the disciples were in their claim?

7. *Friday:*

- a. Read and meditate on John 16:31-32.
- b. How do you understand Jesus’ opening question in verse 31? Do you think He is doubting the disciples' confession, or is He more likely expressing exasperation at the time it has taken them to reach their understanding?
- c. After confessing their belief, how do you think the disciples would have responded to Jesus’ statement telling them what they would do in the near future? How does this news compare with what initiated this entire lengthy passage back in John 13:34-38?
- d. In telling the disciples how they will respond to upcoming events, Jesus is showing the fulfillment of another Old Testament prophecy. Read Zechariah 13:7 (and compare with Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27). Knowing the events immediately before His crucifixion, how accurate was this prophecy?
- e. Despite being abandoned by His earthly companions, how does Jesus see His situation (see also John 8:16 & 29)? Why should Jesus’ assurance of the Father’s presence provide us strength and comfort as we face life’s challenges (Romans 8:38-39 and Hebrews 13:5)?

8. *Saturday:*

- a. Finally, today read and meditate on John 16:33.
- b. After this long discourse, how does Jesus summarize the purpose of teaching the disciples these truths?

- i. What does it mean to have “peace”? When you think of having “peace,” do you think primarily of the absence of negative things or the positive benefits God provides despite the negatives of this life?
- ii. Since “peace” is one of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) who should have it?
- c. In the middle of the verse, Jesus assures us we will have trouble in this world. Why is this a good thing (see John 15:18-21 and 2 Timothy 3:12)? If we never experience any “trouble,” what might we conclude?
- d. What has Jesus done that allows us to have “peace” despite all of the troubles this world may throw in our paths (see Romans 8:31 & 37, 1 John 4:4, & 5:4, and John 16:33)?

9. **Application:**

- a. The disciples certainly had good intentions as they confirmed their belief in Christ, but in a very short time, they would all abandon Him, demonstrating that it is possible to have faith and understanding, yet still fail the Lord. The missing ingredient is the power provided by the Holy Spirit. As we face a future with the probability of increasing persecution for being a Christian, we must learn that success lies not in what we know or claim to believe, but in relying on the Holy Spirit.
- b. That same Holy Spirit is the source of the peace Jesus promises us. We must learn to accept and live in that peace despite whatever troubles God allows us to face. When our focus is on the trouble rather than the peace, we provide opportunity for the enemy to sow seeds of doubt and disbelief, which will ultimately destroy our witness as Christians.

10. **Pray:** This week, please pray for these two unreached people groups in the country of Mali that IMB has highlighted in their *2026 Loving the Lost through Prayer* guide:

- a. **Bozo:** The Bozo (BOH-zoh) people live, grow rice, and fish along the rivers in Mali. For years, God’s Word has been broadcast through radio and social media in Bozo regions. Although a fierce spiritual stronghold is preventing them from leaving folk Islam and following Jesus, a spark of light occasionally breaks through. One Bozo man had never heard of Jesus until he found himself in prison, where he first heard Scriptures on the radio in his own language. Intrigued, he contacted a believer who visited him in prison and gave him an SD card loaded with Scripture. Now, the man is back home in his village, listening to the Word of God every day and seeking answers to the questions he has about what he is learning. Pray for God’s light to break through spiritual darkness among the Bozo people. Pray that this man and others who are seeking will find true freedom and transformation in Christ Jesus.
- b. **Tiemaxo Bozo:** The Tiemaxo (tee-eh-MAH-kho) Bozo are fishermen who live along the Niger River in Mali. They call themselves Muslim yet still hang onto their traditional animistic beliefs. Though they are people of the water, they live in fear of water spirits. When troubled, they seek help from Islamic teachers who claim power over these spirits through magic. Children are particularly vulnerable, often forced to wear protective charms around their waist, neck, or arms. While used for protection, belief in these charms actually creates spiritual bondage. Pray that the Tiemaxo Bozo will witness the authority and power of Jesus over evil spirits, just as those in Mark 1:27 did. Pray they will abandon their charms and place their full trust in Christ alone.